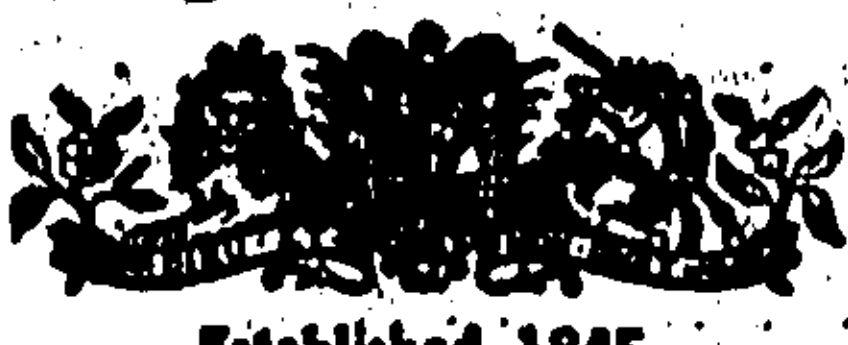


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COMMENT OF THE DAY

The Meaning Is Different

DURING the Berlin conference the East German Communist Government announced that all-German elections could only be allowed on condition that they were free "in the democratic sense of the word." Next Sunday the Germans, and others, are to be given another demonstration of what Communism means by free elections "in the democratic sense of the word," for on that day the people of the Soviet Union itself are to elect a new Supreme Soviet. And this, according to the Russian press, is "the most democratic election in the world." If the terms of the Soviet Constitution of 1936 are taken on face value the claim would not appear to be exaggerated, for Article 14 lays down that members of the Supreme Soviet "are chosen by the electors on a basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot." This seems to fulfil all the conditions for genuinely free elections. It might well have been copied word for word from the Constitution of any "bourgeois democracy." But it remains to be realised that there is an important difference in practice. Every adult Soviet citizen has a right to vote. He is free to choose his member of the Supreme Soviet. That is, he has in theory, the right to choose. But in practice he has no choice. For in each constituency there is only a single candidate, and he (or she) is the candidate of the "Communist and non-party bloc." It is noticeable that candidates need not necessarily be members of the Communist Party; on the other hand non-party candidates must be persons who are "devoted to the cause of Leninism-Stalinism. In other words they must have Communist approval.

HERE then is the model of free elections "in the democratic sense of the word." They are, in fact, elections which only produce, and can only produce, an alignment of nominees in which there is no possibility of opposition or of any dissenting voice of any consequence. Another consideration to be appreciated in estimating the importance of next Sunday's elections is that, despite its august title, the Supreme Soviet does not play any vital role in the governing of the country. It usually meets only once a year for a brief session of three to four days. The Supreme Soviet is little more than a finance committee. All the real power and authority is vested in a tiny group of men in the Kremlin, responsible to none but themselves, who control the organs of government and the organisation of the Party. The official description of the system is "democratic centralism," and certainly the "centralism" cannot be disputed. Moreover, it is this Soviet system and this Soviet conception of "free elections" which have been extended to the so-called People's Democracies of the satellite states of Eastern Europe. As in Russia there is always the "single list": that and the denial to the elector of any voice whatever in the election of his representative. This then is the meaning of the phrase "free elections in the democratic sense of the word," which the German Communists offer as a basis for the reunification of Germany. This is why Mr Molotov could not understand the Eden Plan at Berlin. It is also why there can never be a working agreement between the Big Four or between West and East Germany on the proper methods for holding all-German free elections.

NEW WEAPONS FOR THE BRITISH NAVY

Equal Pay For Women Petition

Mr Butler Replies To 25 Questions

London, Mar. 9. Spring bonnets and a hint of perfume filled the House of Commons today when Britain's determined women tackled the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the question of "equal pay for equal work."

But Mr R. A. Butler, smiling, parried their thrusts—25 pointed questions—with gallant praise and soft words.

The attack opened amid cheers when Miss Irene Ward (Conservative), wearing a green and white hat—colours of the first suffragette movement which won women the right to vote—presented petitions with 80,000 signatures to an official attendant superbly dignified in full evening dress.

Then more petitions with over a million names were brought in by Mr Charles Pannell (Labour) and neatly stacked on the floor.

Miss Ward read her petition which asked for "legislation to establish equal pay for equal work as between men and women in the public service, and thus implement a principle which has been accepted by your honourable house in 1920, 1938, 1944 and 1952."

A barrage of questions followed and Mr Butler said he would answer them ten at a time.

"EXPLOITED"

Dr Edith Summerskill, Labour, said women civil servants were being exploited as "cheap labour" and that countries poorer than Britain did not so exploit their women civil servants. Mr Butler replied that the splendid ladies of the civil service would not regard themselves as being exploited as cheap labour.

When asked why Ministers and Members of Parliament should have equal pay and not the civil servants in attendance in the House, the Chancellor retorted (amid laughter and cheers) "like a good many things to do with women, it is entirely illogical."

He pointed out that the cost of implementing equal pay throughout the civil service and in the teaching profession would be over £30,000,000.

"As I have been repeatedly stated," he said, "it is the intention of the Government to make a start in the introduction of equal pay in the civil service as soon as the financial and economic situation of the country permits."

Mr Emanuel Shinwell, protesting from the Opposition side, asked "isn't it about time the Chancellor stopped talking a lot of nonsense? Isn't it a case that, he doesn't intend to do anything at all?"

Question time over, Mr Douglas Houghton, Labour, was given leave to introduce his private members Bill to establish a principle of equal pay.

It was the cue for the "suffragettes' beauty queens to start lobbying.—Reuter.

"Homing" Device For Destroying Submarines

London, Mar. 9.

Mr J. P. Thomas, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the House of Commons today that greatly improved "homing" weapons for destroying submarines when located would shortly be in service with the British Navy.

He did not give any details, but an Admiralty spokesman said the weapons would be launched from aircraft. They would "chase" submarines and "home" on to their targets.

This is distinct from the improved type of depth charge as fired from ships by a kind of multiple mounting.

This, the spokesman said, is partly of greatly improved asdic (underwater detection) gear fitted in the modern anti-submarine frigate. It contains an electric brain which when it locates a submarine sets about destroying it by automatically operating a more deadly anti-submarine mortar than has ever been used before in war.

The equipment automatically controls the mortar. It locates, aims, fires and sets its bombs to explode at the correct depth without human aid thus increasing the "killing" power of escort ships many times.

Mr Thomas said that British anti-submarine aircraft would be fitted with improved radar for the detection of a submarine's short-breathing apparatus which projects above the water. They would also carry buoys which can be dropped for detecting submerged submarines.

Another weapon in anti-submarine warfare would be helicopters, he said. Their ability to hover with a locating device suspended in the rear—a "dipping asdic"—promised a great improvement in the accuracy with which a submerged submarine could be fixed.

Submarines, Mr Thomas said, were also being provided with much improved asdics. The Navy was also going very thoroughly into "novel and promising" new devices for clearing all types of mines.

NEW JET FIGHTER

Mr Thomas said progress was being made in the producing of a swept back wing carrier-borne jet fighter. This machine would carry air to air guided missiles for air combat and an atom bomb if required. It was capable of supersonic speeds.

He also reported "steady progress" in the development of a "large guided missile for fleet and convoy protection".

The first guided weapon trials ship would be fitted out shortly, he added.

Mr Thomas said it would be a mistake to imagine that guided weapons would be in general service at sea or would supersede for years yet the gun as a weapon of medium and close range defence of the fleet and convoys against air attack.

Mr Thomas was asking the House of Commons for £353,000,000 for the Navy for the year 1954/55.

An Admiralty spokesman said tonight that a new three inch gun would be the main medium range anti-aircraft weapon of the future. This gun, being fitted in the trials cruiser Cumberland for sea trials later this year.

Essex Housewives To Burn Ration Books

London, Mar. 9. Housewives in Maldon, Essex, east coast resort, will burn their ration books at a public rally on July 17 to celebrate the official end of food rationing in Britain.

Major Gwilym Lloyd George, Britain's Food Minister, was told about the big bonfire Maldon women are planning when he attended a 600-strong audience of housewives here today.

The news came after he had faced a barrage of quick-fire questions about present day prices and shortages.

The housewives learned something too about the £200,000,000 income tax relief given in the last budget "for the distinct purpose of offsetting the cost of living."

Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith, attractive Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Minister, said she conducted "a private" among 20 husbands to find out how many passed on the concession to their wives.

Arson And Looting Features Polling

Dacca, East Bengal, Mar. 9. Fifty-six people were arrested, a party official said on fire and three shops looted in the bazaar area here today during clashes between rival parties voting to elect a new legislature for East Bengal.

After police had driven away arsonists and looters an armed contingent of the East Bengal Rifles was called out to patrol the area.

Voting today, the second day of the four-day election, was mainly by women and minorities.—Reuter.

Accusation Levelled At McCarthy

Washington, Mar. 9.

Senator Ralph E. Flanders (Rep. Vermont) told the United States Senate today that Senator Joseph McCarthy was doing his best to break up the Republican party, either willfully or through ignorance.

The real danger to the security of the United States was to be found without, and not within as claimed by the Senator from Wisconsin, Senator Flanders declared.

One only had to look to Korea "where the Iron Curtain had been moved down to the true line by force of arms, in defiance of the principles and of the purposes of the United Nations," or to Indo-China where our country has been assigned to play the part of a supporter of colonialism," Senator Flanders said.

In Europe "Italy was ready to fall into the hands of the Communists," while France was "irresolute, palsied in thought and action, with her Communists well organised and sure of their ground," the Senator claimed.

Senator McCarthy "should not so work as to conceal the mortal danger in which our country finds itself from the external enemies of mankind," Senator Flanders said.

Meanwhile, Senator McCarthy told the press in New York that he would see whether American radio networks had the right to refuse him the free time on the air he required to reply to the accusations made against him by the defeated Democrat Presidential candidate, Mr Adlai Stevenson.

The networks had already given the required "air time" to the Republican Party, which desired to put its case against Mr Stevenson, but had refused to let McCarthy reply individually.—France-Press.

Lively Commons Debate Promised

Pancake Race Climax



The annual pancake race at Olney, Bucks, this year was won by 32-year-old Mrs Joan Keech, who collapsed at the end of the race and declared, "Never again." But after she had recovered she bestowed a kiss on the Rev. Ronald Collins, one of the officials.

Porter Battered To Death

Shocking London Crime

London, Mar. 9.

A 60-year-old night porter of a hotel in London's South Kensington district was found bound and gagged and battered to death early today.

Kitchen maids who went to the pantry early this morning screamed when they found the bloody and battered body of stocky, grey-haired George Smart in a corner of the tiny room.

According to the police, Smart tackled the intruders, but was overpowered and trussed up and dragged to the pantry where he was battered to death. No sounds of the struggle were heard despite the night quiet that reigns over the shabby gentility of the district.

About 22 and some cigarettes were missing from the hotel office, apparently the total haul for which George Smart was battered to death.

Miss Mary Baylin, a 21-year-old art student who lives in the hotel, said today that Smart was "not the sort of man to stand any nonsense from anybody."

Miss Baylin was one of the last people to see Smart alive. He opened the hotel door to her when she returned just after midnight.

"The whole place," said Miss Baylin, "is rather South Kensington. Lots of old ladies, many of them 'stuffed' with old-fashioned, but lovely jewellery—all rather Agatha Christie."

VICTORIAN BUILDING

The Abban Court hotel where Smart was murdered is a six-storied Victorian building. Most of its 100 tenants are retired old ladies who find it as in other nearby hotels, a sheltered life with something to remind them of the spacious days gone by.

The dingy, curtained of many of the hotels in the area sputtered today as the old ladies peeped out and watched the coming and going of Scotland Yard cars in the street.

Defectives, disturbed the settled routine of the residents of the hotel as they took over the lounge and other rooms and examined everything with microscopes and fingerprint powder.

The policemen also interviewed all the hotel residents, but none had any information.

The time of the murder was fixed at around 2.30 a.m. since the chairs in the lounge had been "stacked up" ready for cleaning, which was one of Smart's duties. But the carpets, which are normally taken up about that time, were untouched.—China Mail Special.

Free Hand For Geneva Conference

Paris, Mar. 10.

The French Government last night emerged from the Indo-China debate, which began in the National Assembly last Friday, with a free hand for the Geneva conference on the Far East but somewhat cramped in its current negotiations with Vietnamese Ministers in Paris.

A motion approving the Government's policy and welcoming the Geneva conference was approved by a show of hands after being given priority over other proposed motions by 340 votes to 272.

But to secure this victory the Government had to accept a Gaullist-sponsored addition to the motion which, in effect, warned the Indo-Chinese States that they must either stay in the French Union or be prepared to defend themselves against the Communist-led Vietnamese Army without the help of the French expeditionary force.

This left the Government considerably less room for manoeuvre in the talks with the Vietnamese, who are not keen on the French Union in its present form and would like to get their independence treaty first and settle the form of their association with France afterwards.

In the clause by clause voting which preceded the final vote, this additional paragraph got 377 votes against 235.

The Government, however, secured the rejection of an amendment which might have weakened its bargaining power at Geneva by urging it to seek a cease-fire in Indo-China "even before the Geneva conference." As it stands the Government is simply pledged to "seek all solutions capable of ensuring peace and freedom" in Indo-China.—Reuter.

Fire Elections On May 18

Dublin, Mar. 9. Mr Eamon de Valera, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, announced here tonight that the Dail (Irish Parliament) would be dissolved on April 23.

General elections will be held in June on May 18.—France-Press.

Promised CANAL ZONE POLICY TO BE ATTACKED

London, Mar. 10.

Sir Winston Churchill's Government faces a determined attack in the House of Commons on Thursday over its policy on the future of the Suez Canal zone base.

Parliament will deal with this issue in a debate on the Army estimates. The Labour Opposition will try to drive a wedge between the Government and a group of 40 Conservatives who challenge their own leaders' policy on the Anglo-Egyptian dispute.

These Conservatives recently presented a motion asking the Government to call off negotiations with Cairo on the revision of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian treaty and to withdraw any terms already offered.

The Labour "shadow Cabinet"—the Party's Parliamentary leaders—will meet tonight to plan the Opposition attack.

Simultaneously the 40 Conservatives will confer privately on the attitude in the debate. There now appears to be some division of opinion among them.

Many of the Labour Party want to criticise the Government by alleging it has dragged its feet on the Suez negotiations in deference to its 40 rebels.

But Labour Opposition has been complicated by a resolution put forward by Mrs Barbara Castle, one of the "supporters of Mr Aneurin Bevan, Labour's left-wing leader."

This asks Parliament to note "a deterioration since 1951 in the living conditions of British troops in the Canal zone due to uncertainty as to the future of the base."

IN CONFLICT

"Deploping the Government's handling of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations," which has prolonged this uncertainty," it urges that withdrawal of British troops and equipment should begin forthwith.

This unqualified demand for the withdrawal of troops conflicts with official Labour policy. It is learned that Mrs Castle has since decided to cut out this part of her resolution, which some Socialists think would heal rather than widen the breach between the Government and its "Suez rebels."

The Labour shadow Cabinet must decide today whether it can advise its adherents to support the resolution as amended. Many Socialists are determined to force a vote.

The Conservative "rebels" have to make up their minds how far they are prepared to push their own criticism of the Government, already under attack from the Opposition.

Some of the Conservative critics said this week the eclipse and subsequent rearmament of General Naguib justified their argument that the Egyptian Government is unstable and that negotiations with it should therefore be called off.—China Mail Special.

Taking A Rest

Cairo, Mar. 9.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister, said tonight he is taking five days' rest on the advice of his doctor.

Colonel Nasser became Prime Minister when President Naguib resigned in last month's government crisis, only to lose the post last night when General Naguib—already reinstated—resumed supreme authority.

Colonel Nasser has been replaced by President Naguib both as Prime Minister and as Chairman of the Revolution Council.—Reuter.

HEAD-ON CRASH

Rosario, Argentina, Mar. 9.

Two long-distance buses crowded with passengers crashed head-on today on the national highway between here and Cordoba. First reports said seven persons were killed and 23 injured.—United Press.

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"PROPAGANDA AND MYTH"

SAYS MAKINS

Replies To Charges

Of Violating
UN Strategic Ban

New York, Mar. 9.

The British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Roger Makins, today answered Britain's critics by describing as a "myth" and "propaganda" charges that Britain was exporting strategic goods to Communist China and the Soviet Union.

"The fact is that you must distinguish between what is put out as propaganda and the statistics," he said in a speech to the Houston Club at Texas. "The former bears no relations to the latter."

Sir Roger Makins said the first myth about Britain's trade was that she had shipped and was continuing to ship strategic goods to the Communists.

"Of course I can only speak for Britain, but what I shall say is broadly true of other Western European countries," he added.

"Britain originated the policy of prohibition and controlling the export of strategic goods to the Soviet bloc," he said.

"It has not only participated actively in the enforcement of this policy, but in the case of China has actually imposed rather stricter controls than some other countries."

He said except for a few minor cases when regulations had been circumvented and severely dealt with, no strategic

goods had been exported from any British territory or in any British ship since international controls were imposed at the beginning of the Korean war.

SECOND MYTH

The second myth, he said, was that Allies of the United States were doing a tremendous non-strategic trade with the Communist bloc.

He pointed out that Western Europe's trade with the Soviet Union in 1952 and early 1953 had fallen sharply and that Britain's trade with the whole Soviet bloc in 1953 was only about one per cent of its total trade.

"The picture in regard to trade with China is very similar," he added.

"It is true there has been a considerable increase in the last few months in non-strategic trade between Western Europe and China, but the increases began from abnormally low levels and in 1953 the proportion which trade with China was to Britain's total trade was about one quarter of one per cent."

S. Korea Seeks
Assurances On
Geneva Talks

Washington, Mar. 9.

The State Department today received by telegram a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, by the South Korean government regarding the forthcoming Asian conference in Geneva, it was officially stated today.

The letter was dated March 6, and was sent to Washington by the United States ambassador in Seoul, Mr. Ellis Briggs. It is now under study by the State Department specialists, and will be answered when the Secretary of State returns from Caracas.

The South Korean letter to the American government demanded certain written assurances before the Seoul government would commit itself to sending delegates to the conference. The invitation to South Korea was sent out by the United States government.

Among other things, the South Koreans have asked whether the conference would be limited to three months, and whether it would be a "round table affair" "bi-parity".

Other questions called for details as to the exact role to be played at the conference by Communist China and the Soviet Union.—France-Press.

New Post For US
Navy Secretary

Washington, Mar. 9.

President Eisenhower today named Mr. Robert Anderson, the present Secretary of the Navy, as Under-Secretary of Defense to replace Mr. Robert Kyes who has announced his intention to resign on May 1.

A spokesman for the White House said that no announcement would be made at the moment of a successor to Mr. Anderson at the head of the Department of the Navy.

Mr. Anderson, a lawyer and businessman who owns a ranch in Texas, had supported President Eisenhower in the 1952 elections, although he was a Democrat himself.

Mr. Kyes, a vice-president of General Motors, had accepted the post of deputy Secretary of Defense for a twelve-month period expiring on February 2 this year. He will hand his powers over to Mr. Anderson on May 1.

The Presidential Press Secretary, Mr. James Hagerty, denied all knowledge of these suggestions that Mr. Anderson would be replaced as Secretary of the Navy by the governor of Connecticut, Mr. John Lodge.—France-Press.

Queen Ingrid Visits England



Queen Ingrid of Denmark pictured on her arrival at Liverpool Street Station, London, last month. She is on a private visit to her aunt, Lady Patricia Ramsay.

Traces Of Thieves
Found In
Pyramid Corridor

Cairo, Mar. 9.

Hopes of finding intact the burial chambers of the newly discovered pyramid at Sakkarah vanished today, when the pyramid was finally opened.

Like the other 60 pyramids which line the banks of the Nile, it too had been visited by thieves.

The Egyptologist, Zakaria Ghonem, who discovered the pyramid, swung the first blows with the pick axe, and very soon, the opening was made.

After waiting a few moments to allow the foul air to dissipate, the archaeologists entered the tunnel, which opened out on to vast galleries, 18 feet high. But after penetration about 30 feet down the corridor, the way was found to be blocked by a fall of earth, proving that thieves had visited the tomb already, probably in the first centuries immediately after the pharaoh was buried.

Ghonem said even if they would not find a treasure of rich jewels, they hoped to find inscriptions which would help to explain something of the history of the third dynasty, of which little is known.

The archaeologists are still not certain for whom the pyramid was built, but it is thought it may be that of Sanakht.

LEE Theatre GREAT WORLD

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★ TO-MORROW ★

Francis and the Big Town
DONALD O'CONNOR

Admiral Radford Says

"Military Conduct Of
Indo-China War
Up To The French"

New York, Mar. 10.

The Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur Radford, today said the United States would help materially and financially to defeat Communist aggression in Indo-China, but would leave the control of actual military operations to France and to the Associated States of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

"There has been public speculation to the effect that the United States seeks to direct and to control the military operation in Indo-China. This is not the case at all," Admiral Radford said. "The United States does not request, and does not desire, to assume responsibility for the military situation in Indo-China."

The United States, however, would continue to render assistance in the form of financial support and military supplies in view of the vital importance of Indo-China to the defense system of the Western world.

America's top military leader, who was making an address here, said "Indo-China was of special interest to the United States because its loss would directly imperil the whole of South-east Asia, and indirectly a much wider area."

"The Reds would be that much stronger, and we would be that much weaker," Admiral Radford said it was apparent "that it would be necessary to do more in the Far East."

"Accordingly, we have made available substantial additional resources to assist military defense efforts in Indo-China, and to defeat the Communist aggression," Admiral Radford said.

FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY
"However, in consonance with our long established policy of rendering material assistance and moral support to nations threatened by the Communist aggression, the United States has supplied much of the material means to help them

fight against it. We plan to continue such military assistance programmes, and to co-operate with our friends in Indo-China."

Admiral Radford, warning the people of the United States against excessive confidence in the atomic weapon, said "It was recognized that the safety of the U.S. could not be assured by the U.S. alone."

"Our planning does not subscribe to the thinking that the ability to deliver massive atomic retaliation is in itself, an adequate guarantee of security. We believe that this nation could be a prisoner of its own military posture, if it had no capability other than the capability to deliver a massive atomic attack."

SECOND TO NONE
"It should be evident, from the forces that we intend to maintain, that we are not relying solely on air power. We shall continue to have over a million men in our army, and we shall continue to have a navy that is second to none."

Admiral Radford pointed out that the United States must have allies as "we recognize that the safety of the United States cannot be assured by the United States alone."—France-Press.

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USA HAS ONLY SHORT H-BOMB LEAD OVER USSR

Belgian Minister Says Russia 9 Months Behind

Brussels, Mar. 9. — The Belgian Defence Minister, General Eugene De Greef, warned today that "the approximate balance of military power" now existing between East and West could be turned in Russia's favour within two years.

He told the Belgian Upper House, the Senate, now in its second week of debate on ratification of the European Defence Community Treaty, that "within two years from now Russia will have a certain number of hydrogen bombs."

The Minister added that the United States had only a nine-months advance on Russia in thermo-nuclear technique.

The present equilibrium in military forces had been reached by Russia's "incontestable superiority" in classical weapons and America's in atom and thermo-nuclear arms.

General De Greef said Russia had 250,000 men in her ground forces — double the number in 1939 — and 800,000 men in her air force, which had also doubled since 1947.

Calling on the Senate to ratify the EDC treaty, the Minister said that it would take two years after all six member countries had completed ratification of the treaty before the proposed 12 West German divisions could be provided for the European Army.

Since 1950, when negotiations were first started to create a European Army, Russia had increased the fighting power of all her forces, had completely subdued her satellites, made up her petrol deficits and learnt thermo-nuclear technique.

During the same time, the West had made progress, but still lacked combat divisions, the Minister declared. — Reuter.

A-BOMBS IN E. GERMANY

Dusseldorf, W. Germany, Mar. 9.

A Soviet lieutenant who recently sought asylum in West Berlin today said he believed the Red Army had stocks of atomic bombs in East Germany.

He did not think, however, that the Soviet Union had any atomic cannon in spite of its claims to the contrary.

Lieutenant Mikhail Ivanovich Grigorov, who formerly directed the Kopenick monitoring station in East Germany, told the press the Soviet Union possessed some secret weapons, but that the armament of the Red Army in general was not as good as that of the Western forces — and that the Air Force in particular was inferior.

Grigorov said the belief had been current among Soviet officers stationed in East Germany that the Soviet Union had not wanted the Berlin conference to succeed.

The Soviet people and army were convinced that the proposed Western German army, and the European army as a whole, were directed against

Moscow Radio Attacks US "Selfishness"

London, Mar. 9.

Radio Moscow accused the United States of trying to "deflect" South American attention at the Caracas conference from "vital problems" by attacking Communism.

A Moscow broadcast monitored here said these problems were "notably the invasion by American monopolies of the economy of the Latin American countries."

"The behaviour of the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in Caracas only confirms that the U.S.A. is striving to use the fight against Communism as an excuse for the narrowly selfish interests of the U.S.A.," said the broadcast.

"As regards the calls by U.S. ruling circles for more effective measures to suppress the democratic movement, wide sections of the Latin American public regard such policy as gross interference by Washington in the internal affairs of Latin America."

"It is clear to everyone that U.S. diplomacy has directed its efforts mainly against Guatemala, the Government of which has taken measures to end the domination of the country by American monopolies."

"At the Caracas conference, American diplomacy would like to achieve results which would give it the right of armed interference in order to crush the national liberation movement of the Guatemalan people. The outspoken colonialist policy of the American monopolies is meeting with the growing resistance of the Latin American peoples, who demand that their governments should refuse to submit to the U.S. monopolies and pursue an independent policy." — United Press.

Development Fund For TV Suggested

London, Mar. 10.

British traders suggested today that a research and development fund should be set up to aid both commercial and non-advertising television in Britain.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce welcomed the Government's decision to introduce sponsored television.

But it sponsored television was successful the British Broadcasting Corporation now holding the monopoly of "no advertising" in television would be at a disadvantage as its means of increasing revenue would be restricted.

To maintain good standards in BBC programmes would be difficult unless the BBC could keep pace with the developments of sponsored television. The Association said the Government should appoint a television research and development council to control and administer a special fund which should be established to benefit both types of television.

It rejected the view that commercial advertising on television would lead to debased standards, but "certain standards" would be necessary to preserve present standards. — Reuter.

Inchcape Light Helps Newfoundland's Trawlers

Washington, Mar. 9.

The story of a Scottish lighthouse lamp that emigrated to Newfoundland to achieve New World as well as Old World renown was told here by the National Geographic Society.

The beacon is the Inchcape Light. Once it flashed its warning from the tower of the Inchcape or Bell Rock Lighthouse, 12 miles off Scotland's east coast. Standing amid the shipping lanes off the Firth of Tay and Forth, it marked a hazard immortalised in Robert Southey's ballad, "The Inchcape Rock."

In 1842 the beacon was replaced and the old light sent to Newfoundland. There, on Cape Bonaville, it still guards the fishing and sealing fleets that skirt the coast of England's oldest colony, now Canada's newest province. Robert Southey, the English poet, wrote the ballad in 1807 and lighted in 1811.

The Inchcape Lighthouse, built by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of Nova Scotia's premier, was the first of a series of lighthouses built by the family.

Royal Plate Exhibition



For the first time the British public will see the Royal plate from Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle at an Exhibition as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. This photograph shows a close-up of the detail of a gilt table-centre made in 1842 by Robert Garrard. Models of four favourite dogs of Queen Victoria are placed on a circular plateau, namely a greyhound, a Skye terrier, Cairn, a rough-haired terrier, a dog, and a Dachshund, Wilmann. Designed by Prince Albert and exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of British Manufacturers in 1849. In the picture can be seen dogs watching a rat in a trap with a dead rat at base. — Express Photo.

Replying to Adlai Stevenson's Charges

Nixon's Speech To Reflect Eisenhower's View

Philadelphia, Mar. 9.

Vice President Richard Nixon said today his radio reply next Saturday to the attack on Republican "McCarthyism" by the Democrat leader, Mr Adlai Stevenson, would reflect the view of President Eisenhower.

He said he would be speaking as Republican party spokesman and, more particularly for the President and "I have a pretty good idea of what I want to say."

Mr Nixon's forthcoming speech was provoked by the Democratic leader's claim last Saturday that the Republicans were using "slander, dissection and deception" to try to win the November Congressional elections.

The choice of Mr Nixon to make the counter-attack was said to have been made by the President himself to get the Communist hunting Senator Joseph McCarthy out of the headlines and get the Republicans' story across.

But Senator McCarthy too is trying to make a personal reply to Mr Stevenson.

He has threatened to take legal action against privately owned broadcasting companies unless they grant him free radio time to make his reply. Some companies have refused the Senator's demand because they have already allocated time to Mr Nixon.

Mr Nixon said today he had not yet prepared his radio and television speech and would not have a final draft until he had conferred with the President and other Republican leaders.

"HE'S NOT HERE" — Asked whether Senator McCarthy would be included in the talks, Mr Nixon said, "He is not in Washington now."

(Senator McCarthy is in New York today, the subject of a mysterious phone call threatening him that unless he got out of his hotel there "something terrible will happen").

Senator McCarthy has so far avoided an open clash with his party over who shall reply to Mr Stevenson but the press has interpreted the choice of Mr Nixon as a rebuff to the Senator. — Reuter.

London, Mar. 9. — Mr Nikita Khrushchev, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, said today that the Soviet Union was not in a hurry to withdraw from the East. He said the Soviet Union was not in a hurry to withdraw from the East. He said the Soviet Union was not in a hurry to withdraw from the East. — Reuter.

They've Made Golden Banana Jam

Johannesburg, Mar. 9.

Housewives the world over have a new treat coming — banana jam.

After its manufacture had baffled scientists for years South African researchers have at last produced a golden jam made of banana pulp.

Samples have been sent abroad and latest reports are that interest has been keen in Britain and the United States.

Difficulty in making this jam was to prevent the banana from turning black. Banana jam the colour of chutney could not be sold.

But the jam now being produced in Johannesburg has a golden colour, full banana flavour and a half-killed consistency ideal for spreading on bread. — China Mail Special.

Persian Elections Nearly Finished

Tehran, Mar. 9.

Persia's lengthy general election neared its end today as the people of Tehran began voting for the Majlis (Lower House). Polling goes on for two more days.

First votes were cast in remote areas of the country on January 16. The elections are the first held since General Fazlollah Zahedi became Prime Minister after the ousting of Dr. Mohammed Mossadegh last August.

One of the main tasks facing the new Parliament is to ratify any oil agreement with Britain. Ministry of Interior officials reported last night the Shah was considering opening the 1954 Parliament in March. It would then close on early April, they added. — Reuter.

TRIAL IN KENYA

"Committed Perjury On Orders Of My Superior Officer"

Nairobi, Mar. 9.

A subaltern in the King's African Rifles, 24-year-old Second Lieutenant David Innes Walker, testified today he had committed perjury before a court of inquiry on the orders of his superior officer — Captain Gerald Selby Lewis Griffiths, who is accused of cruelty to Africans.

"I did it because I was told to by my superior officer," he told the court martial. "It was not to save my own skin. I had nothing to gain and everything to lose. It was to help ten of my men."

Griffiths' defence counsel asked the subaltern "is it true you came here today to save your own skin at anybody else's cost?" He replied "no."

Lieutenant Innes Walker said Mr Griffiths asked, "why did he now feel 'ashamed' of his part in the forest incidents, but 'felt I was merely executing the orders of my superior officer'?"

Captain Griffiths is charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Africans and of disgraceful conduct of a cruel kind. He has pleaded not guilty.

Lieutenant Innes Walker denied ordering one of the Mau Mau suspects in the forest to be shot.

He said his impression was that Griffiths was surprised when Segat cut off the ear of one of the prisoners.

Griffiths had given a two-edged knife, six to eight inches long, to Private Ali Segat, a Somali soldier, and told him to threaten one of the prisoners. Then he said in Swahili, "Toamkenda" (castrate him).

"The prisoner's trousers were removed by the prisoner himself, who fumbled and tried to help, and by Ali Segat."

He had no orders to proceed further, he added.

The Judge Advocate, Lord Russell, of Liverpool, asked Mr Griffiths what was the relevance of how Major Dawson carried out his orders to the case against Griffiths. Mr Griffiths replied he wanted to find out the reason why one officer, Griffiths, alleged to be guilty of "disgraceful conduct of a cruel kind" had been charged before a court martial, while another, Innes Walker, alleged to have murdered, had not been charged.

The Judge Advocate interposed to say "this is not a matter for this court."

The case was adjourned till Wednesday. — Reuter.

CLEAN MOVEMENT

"All Segat leant forwards as if he was going to obey the order, but he did not actually cut the man."

The Lieutenant said: "Soon after, Ali Segat cut off the man's right ear by holding it in his left hand and cutting it in one clean movement with his right hand. As I recall it, cutting off the prisoner's ear was Segat's own idea."

He remembered Griffiths swearing and saying "that was quick."

He added that some time after the incident, Griffiths said "this man will have to be shot otherwise he will bleed to death."

Lieutenant Innes Walker said he did not recollect Griffiths saying anything to Segat about cutting off the ear and Segat was never placed on a charge by Griffiths for what he had done.

Questioned, he said he protested after the prisoner had been threatened with castration by saying something like "I don't think that would be a wise thing to do."

SHOT ON ORDERS

He denied he helped to take down the prisoner's trousers or that he ordered the man to be shot in the forest.

Major Clifford Dawson, Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal in charge of the Army Special Investigation Branch, told the court he had taken statements from two Somali soldiers of Griffiths' company early last January and said no "promise, threat or inducement" had been made to them before their statements were taken down in his presence.

Cross-examined by Mr Gledhill, Major Dawson agreed that both Somali soldiers had mentioned in their statements that one of the Mau Mau suspects, whose ear had been cut off on Griffiths' orders, had been released during a forest patrol, ordered to run by Lieutenant Innes Walker and then shot on that officer's orders.

Bird's Nest Caused Death

London, Mar. 9. — A bird's nest blocking the outside flue of a bathroom keyer caused the death of a 14-year-old boy, it was revealed at an inquest at Sutton Surrey.

A verdict of accidental death from poisonous fumes was recorded. — China Mail Special.

Grim Fight To Ratify EDC In Italy Forecast

Rome, Mar. 10.

A vote of confidence for Signor Mario Scelba's Coalition Government in the Italian lower house today will set the stage for what may be Italy's most bitter political battle since the war.

Scelba plans to submit a bill to ratify the European Defence Community Treaty, which Parliament completed its approval of his two-month-old Cabinet.

He held a confidence vote from the Senate 10 days ago and is likely to gain a narrow majority in the Chamber of Deputies today.

Scelba's Communist and extreme left-wing Socialists are preparing to launch an all-out drive to block and outside Parliament against EDC ratification.

The Christian Democrats, Italy's largest party, will counter the attack by a nationwide campaign in favour of EDC ratification.

Scelba's official spokesman said the EDC bill and an explanatory report were already being drawn up. One newspaper has predicted they will be sent to Parliament next week.

EVERY DEVICE

The Communists and Socialists are likely to use every Parliamentary device to delay a debate on the bill in the Commission stage and in plenary sessions.

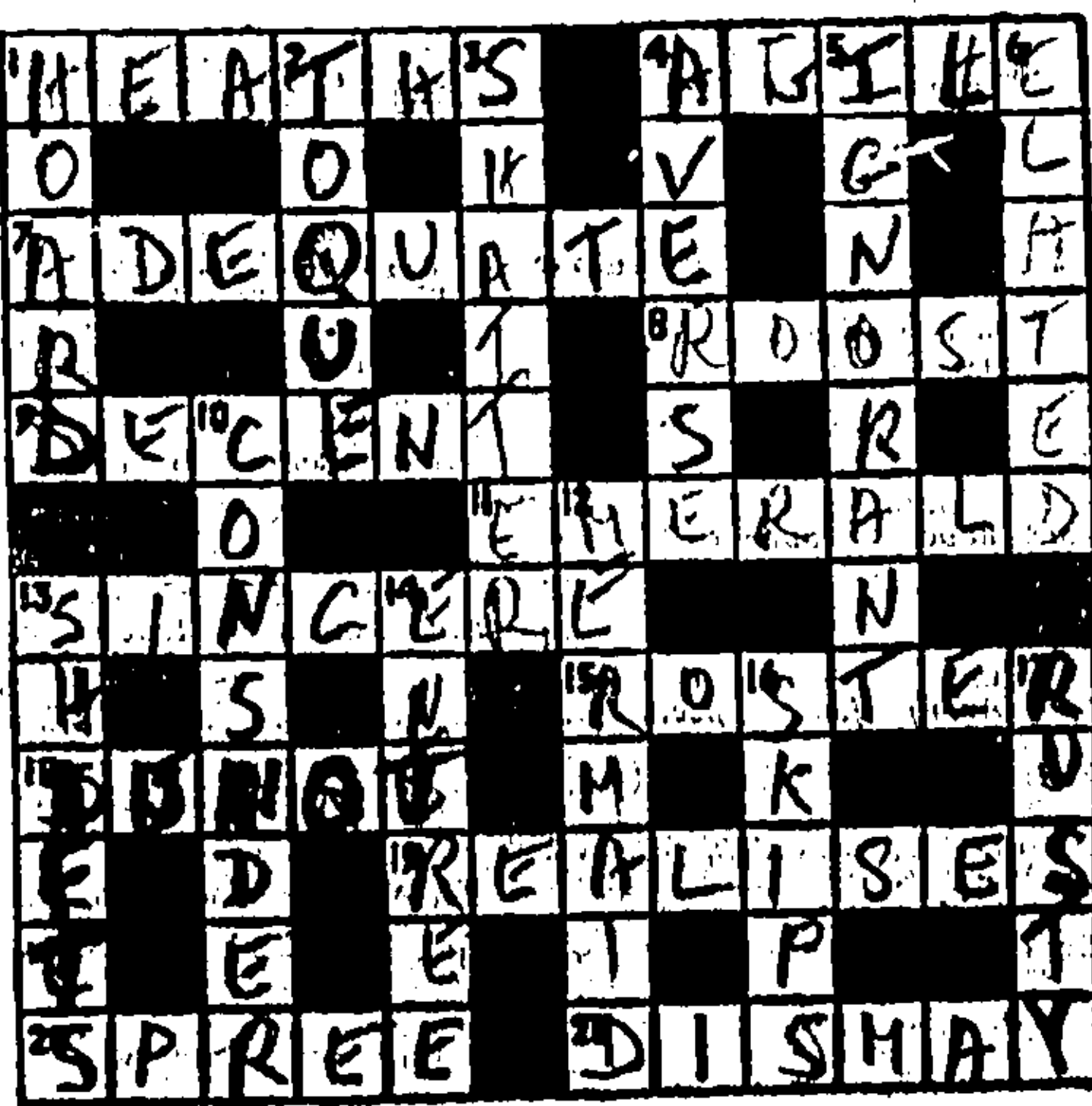
Protest demonstrations, letters to Deputies, and propaganda broadcasts in Italian from behind the Iron Curtain will probably be used to whip up feeling against EDC and the "Italian stages of American imperialism."

A prominent Communist Senator said last year's bitter struggle by Communists and Socialists against Signor Scelba's electoral reform bill would be child's play compared with what might happen to prevent EDC ratification.

"We can make our resistance ten times more intense," he declared.

But Signor Scelba — who as Interior Minister built up Italy's tough new police force and earned the reputation of a stern adversary of the Communists — is ready to fight it out. — Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Moors (6).
- 4 Spry (6).
- 7 Sufficient (8).
- 8 Berch (6).
- 9 Respectable (6).
- 11 Precious stone (7).
- 12 Earnest (7).
- 15 Duty list (6).
- 16 Fool (5).
- 19 Turns into cash (8).
- 20 Jollification (6).
- 21 Discourage (6).

DOWN

- 1 Amass (6).
- 2 Kind of hat (5).
- 3 Disinclined (6).
- 6 Lacking knowledge (8).
- 9 In high spirits (6).
- 10 Deliberate (8).
- 13 Fabulous creature (7).
- 15 Moves (6).
- 14 Courte (6).
- 16 Jumps about (5).
- 17 Out of practice (5).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1 Fast, 4 Hilder, 5 Ream, 9 Coma, 10 Sparling, 11 Vote, 12 Bore, 14 Entered, 17 Adult, 19 Villa, 22 Elevate, 23 Near, 27 Rapt, 28 Spanker, 29 Evil, 30 Elan, 31 Repeats, 32 Tots, 33 Dewar, 34 Adored, 35 Trevel, 36 Haste, 37 Impend, 38 Dingo, 39 Range, 42 Sage, 43 Ruse, 45 Role, 46 Ooze, 48 Stride, 49 Intend, 51 Larist, 52 Lapse, 54 Venue, 55 Fast.

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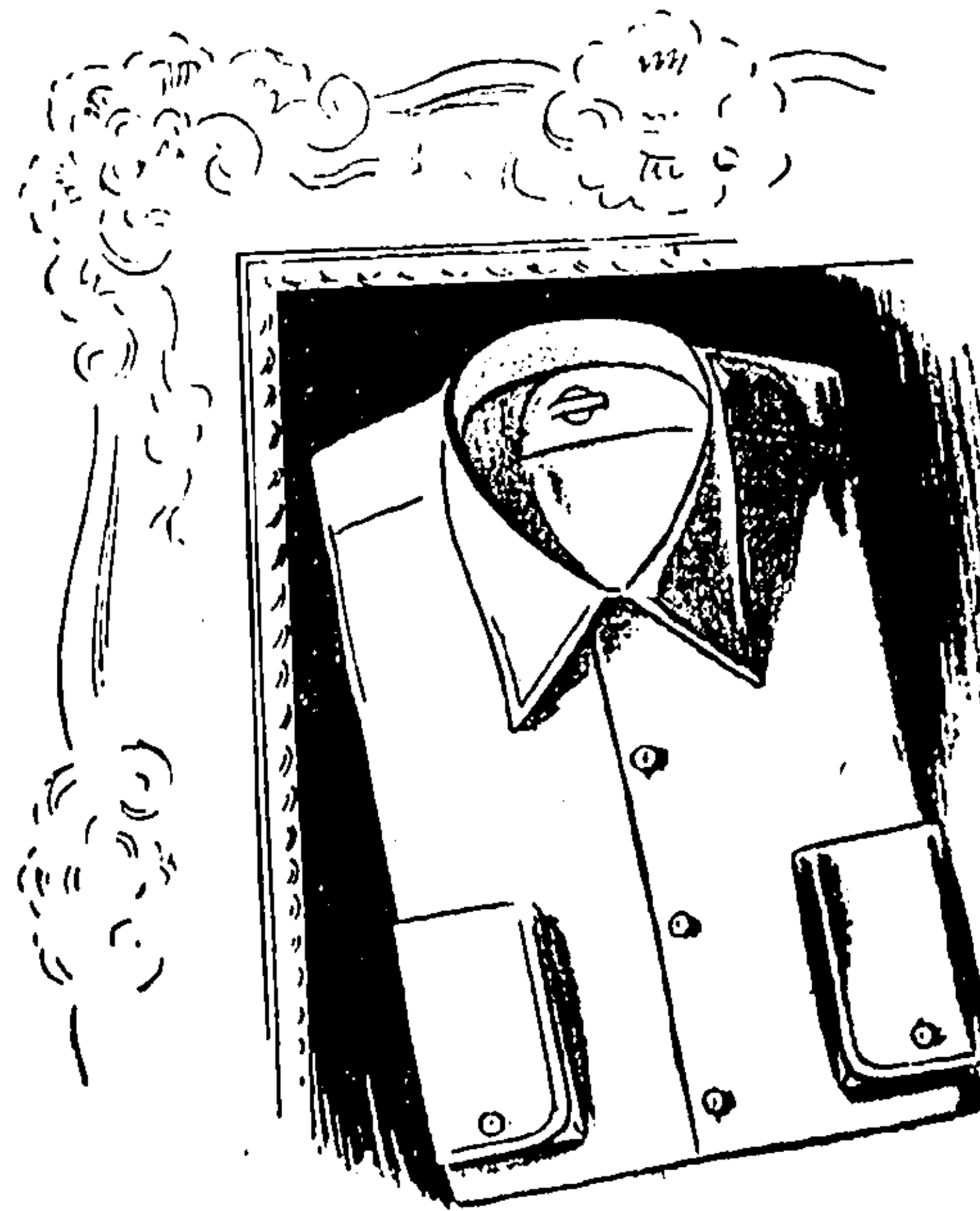
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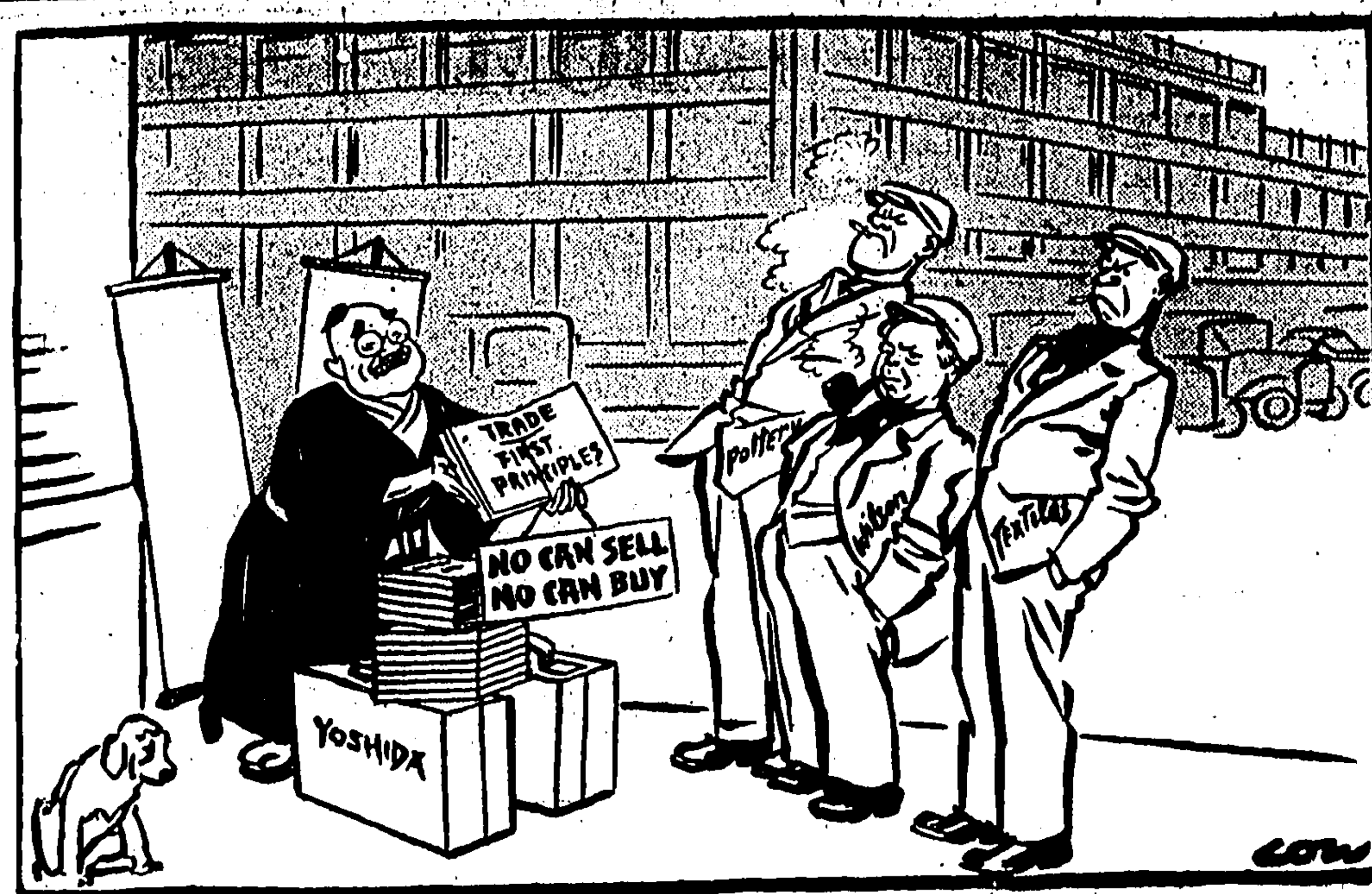
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JAPANESE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER

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A SLAVE ON HIS OWN LAND

By Anna Smirnova

THE collective farm discussed in this article was considered, in the years 1942/6, to be one of the largest kolkhozes in the district. Situated in the Kirov area, some 300 miles East-North-East of Moscow, it is completely isolated and without rail or water communications. It is a backward area and completely without forests, as a result of which firewood has to be bought, at considerable expense to the peasants.

The kolkhoz consisted of three villages, amalgamated into one farming enterprise. There were about 125 households, and the population was about 700. The property owned amounted to 330 hectares, of which 120 were under cultivation, 205 were growing hay, and five were completely unusable. In the "deed of gift" (a large thin book in blue calico binding embossed with a hammer and sickle) it was stated: "This land is given to the members of the kolkhoz completely, gratuitously and in perpetuity." The members of the kolkhoz paid for this fine-sounding sentence with their blood and sweat.

Soviet collective farms are managed by a committee of five members who, as a rule, are completely under the thumb of the chairman of the farm. Management and the president are elected, according to regulations, by members of the kolkhoz for a period of one year, but if there is extreme discontent, the collective farmers may elect a new president earlier.

Turned Down

In order to do this, however, representations have to be made to the regional committee and the authorities are usually extremely unwilling to act. Almost always they turn down such requests so as not to decrease the prestige and power of the farm presidents in the eyes of the ordinary labouring farmers.

The second privileged person on the collective farm is the accountant. In war time these duties were carried out by women, and for this work city women, such as evacuated bookkeepers, bank workers, etc., were preferred. On the conscientiousness of the accountant the well-being of the collective farm to a great degree depends, since he holds all the cards, so to speak; he can contact any of the managing body whenever he wishes, including any committee of inspection, and at the same time, by the nature of his job, he acts as a deterrent against would-be embezzlers.

There is one brigadier to each village, and each within the limits of his village is "Czar and God" to the collective farm. Next in the social scale come the stable managers, who look after the livestock, and the sidestepers. "Kolkhozes" of work and payment are laid down separately for each farm but vary little from

Anna Smirnova is the nom-de-plume of the writer of this article, an ex-Soviet citizen who lived on the outskirts of Leningrad. She worked in the office of a government department. During World War II she was evacuated from Leningrad and obtained a position with the management of a collective farm in the Kirov district. After the war she worked as a civilian for the Soviet Occupation Forces in Austria. She has been living in the West since the end of 1949.

one kolkhoz to another since (1) the inflation of norms leads to an increase in the number of labour days but a lowering in the value of the work done, and (2) increased norms are a disadvantage to the administrators of the kolkhoz, who are paid not according to the amount of work done, but on the basis of a fixed number of labour days per month. The norms of work are laid down at a general meeting of kolkhoz members. Payment for the administration is: president, 55 labour days per month; accountant, 45; brigadiers, 45 each; managers of stables, 35, and storemen, 30.

Impoverishment

The final distribution of the harvest takes place in October and November and until then advances are made to the collective farmers when necessary. If the kolkhoz is extremely impoverished, the town authorities send the farm ration drawn from the reserve fund of better-off kolkhozes. This is not done out of philanthropy but because the executive committee is interested in getting in the harvest and reporting favourably to the oblast Party committee.

The chief reason for impoverishment are the Machine and Tractor Stations (MTS). If the kolkhoz has no horses, and the MTS has none, the 80% of them have none, the kolkhoz is serviced by tractors (no kolkhoz has its own tractors). This is extremely costly since after the ploughing the MTS present a bill to the kolkhoz office in accordance with the number of hectares ploughed. The bill must be paid within 10 days after which, if payment is not made, a fine is imposed followed by another if the first is still not paid.

I have known of kolkhozes which, after the harvest, were simply unable to pay the MTS and the State, or even to start a seed fund, let alone distribute anything to the collective farmers. The peasants used to go around neighbouring villages doing odd jobs: weaving flax or doing blacksmith's and carpenter's work.

No Escape

It is absolutely impossible to escape from the kolkhoz. The peasant is completely tied down to the land. The fundamental reason for this is that he has no passport, no prospect of obtaining accommodation, and cannot register anywhere. "He" is a slave tied to his own land which the Government, by means of its magnificent "deed of gift" presented to him. If the collective farmer has to go to a neighbouring town, say 80 kilometres away, for salt, soap or kerosene (in his own village, such essential commodities cannot be obtained) he will be obliged to ask permission from the farm president and the secretary writes him out a pass

cost allotted to the horse, exchanging it for bread on the way. Bread is very scarce and nothing can be done about it. In the backward kolkhozes where even the human beings have nothing to eat, the horses starve.

Harness in the stables is in a disgusting condition and consists mostly of string. Even the position of the farmer himself is not much better than that of the horses described here. The contrast between the well-being of the administrative staff and the ordinary run of collective farmers is enormous—in fact, monstrous. The elite such as the farm president and accountant, the brigadiers, stable managers and storemen, live in conditions which bear no comparison with the other members of the kolkhoz.

Back-breaking

And so it is that the lot of a brigadier who receives 540 labour days a year, cannot be compared with that of the collective farmer whose average earnings are a maximum of 180/200, since a great deal of back-breaking effort must be expended to achieve this total. Seventy per cent of the collective farmers only have enough grain to last until Christmas; after that they must use bran, pigweed, and ground acorns collected by the children during the summer and, as a great delicacy, potatoes. The better-off peasants, instead of bran, usually mix with the flour 50 percent of raw potato peel. It is not difficult to imagine what bread made in this manner tastes like.

During my three years on this farm I had abundant opportunity to observe what was going on, as I lived under the same roof as a peasant family. It was a fairly well-established household in a well-off kolkhoz, but if you take a family in a kolkhoz which is never out of debt to the Government, where, in the autumn, the grain has to be swept from the granary floor to fulfil obligations to the State, the misery of such a kolkhoz boggles description.

No Rights

No cows, no bread, no firewood, not to speak of warm underclothes or a warm overcoat, and yet one read in the papers:

"We inform you, dear Joseph Vissarionovich, that the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of such-and-such an oblast have fulfilled the government plan of grain deliveries by 100.3 percent before the allotted time. The delivery of grain to the Government continues."

Every "household" had to surrender compulsory deliveries in the same manner as the kolkhoz. On this particular farm these amounted to: milk—120 litres (according to the fat content of the milk), eggs—75, meat—50 kilograms, wool—300 kilograms, dried potatoes—10 kilograms, and one peck of medium sown.

THE Sen Nest, where your Uncle Nat and his Life Partner, The Plucky Little Woman, live, stands only a few yards from the cruel sea.

As it faces due East on the coast of Kent there is nothing much but sea and flat country between The Nest and Russia. For a whole week the wild East wind from the frozen steppes has been blowing against its battered face.

Therefore it is not surprising that Uncle Naty and The Plucky Little Tovarich, both admirers of the 19th-century Russian drama, have been feeling rather Russian as they huddled over their stove. Even their dialogue has caught the spirit of envy and frustration so often found in Russian plays.

It is very cold. Yes, it is very cold. I think it is colder than yesterday.

They say it will be colder tomorrow. Do you want to go to Moscow, like the girl in The Three Sisters, Plucky Little Tovarich?

No, Uncle Naty, I want to go to Nassau. It is warm in Nassau. I read somewhere that Lord Beaverbrook is sunbathing at Nassau.

Only the very rich can afford to spend the winter in Nassau. Or the very beautiful. They would not look very beautiful here where most noses are red and many are blue.

Nobody looks beautiful with a blue nose. Before the revolution the rich landlords of Russia went to the warm Crimea for the winter. Yes, and returning to their estates in the spring, full of health and vigour, to see if their serfs were behaving themselves.

Beaverbrook usually returns to England when the first cuckoo calls. The serfs used to say there were two things that made the spring unbearable—the silly voice of the cuckoo and the harsh barking of the landlord.

But the serfs were often fond of their landlords, even though the landlords beat them. It is a curious thing, but serfs are often fond of their masters. Perhaps a psychiatrist could explain it.

I think an economist could explain it better. A cultured captain of industry once said that if you paid a man enough money you could spit in his eye every day.

If I could go to Nassau anybody could spit in my eye twice a day. Never mind, soon we shall hear the cuckoo call, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo.

Soon after we shall hear the Beaver call. Why don't we have Empire Free Trade? Why don't we do this? Why don't we do that? For why, for why, for why?

It is very cold. It is getting colder. It will be colder tomorrow.

Dear Mum

L.T.—GENERAL Sir Brian Horrocks said in a lecture that the young soldier of today, called up from the towns and suburbs, is less suitable for war training than his predecessors because of malign influence of Mum.

When the sergeant calls me dumb I write a little note to Mum—darling Mum.

"Dear Mum," I write, "My The vulgar sergeant called me dumb."

"Not merely dumb but something dumb."

"Oh something, something awful dumb."

"Dear Mum, you always were my chum."

"And never, never called me dumb."

"I'll never be a soldier, Mum, dumb."

"I hate the sound of s/he and drum."

"The Army food upsets my tum."

"I know my Dad thinks I'm a bum."

"He liked the sound of s/he and drum."

"And if the food upsets his tum, 'Or if the sergeant called him dumb."

"Or something simply shocking, dumb."

"Or cursed his soul to Kingdom Come."

"He never whimpered to his Mum."

"But took it on the chin, by gum."

"But, Mum, dear Mum, my darling chum."

"I'm not a bit like Dad, dear Mum."

"I only want to be a bum."

"With your good grub inside my tum."

"Yum, yum, dear Mum, yum, yum, yum, yum."

Come on the Table

There is a group of Indian holy men called the Naga Sadhus who believe that the world's problems might be solved if the leading statesmen met each other naked. The Awful Child: Do they mean the ones in Berlin? I suppose so. Quite naked? That's what they say. Not even their winter comes on? No. Aren't they lucky they're not having the conference here? Yes. Would they have their lunch naked in the hotel or undress in conference room? I imagine they would undress in the conference room. Who would be the first to undress? As the French are uninhibited I suppose it would be M. Bidault. Who next? M. Molotov might make a gesture as far as his coat. And wait for the others before he took everything off? The Russians are clever at playing the last card. Who would have the best come without holes in them? Mr. Eden has the reputation of being well dressed. Perhaps he's only well dressed on top? I wouldn't like to say. Who would look the best naked? My fancy would be Mr. Eden or Mr. Dulles. Have the others got big tummies? Fairly big. And hairy chests? I don't know. Why do the Indians think they would get on better naked? Where is nakedness there is no pride, unless you count bathing beauties. Would they be ashamed of their tummies? I expect so. And agree quickly so that they could put on their clothes again? Quite likely. Perhaps you could get more money from the bank if you and the bank manager were naked? Possibly. Or a better joint from the butcher if you and the butcher were naked? Maybe. Or perhaps the income tax man would let you off paying taxes if you rushed into his office naked? The possibilities are endless.

Letter from A Lion

Dear Sir,

As one of your constant readers may I crave the hospitality of your valuable space for the expression of the observations of Dorothy Evelyn Smith, who wrote to an editor protesting against the kissing of performing lions by their trainers on television broadcasts?

Although I do not know if the trainers in question were male or female I think I am expressing the opinion of all British lions when I say that we strongly object to being kissed in public by either sex. It is bad enough when we are made to look foolish in front of small, circus audiences, but when we realise that our shame is being witnessed by at least 2,000,000 people our humiliation is even greater.

Of course, I am not speaking for lions brought up in France, where it is the custom for men to kiss each other, and where the women are usually better looking and use much better perfume. If a French lion is kissed by a man he looks no sillier than a French general being kissed by another French general. If he is kissed by a pretty French woman a French audience regards him as fortunate. It does not look upon him as the King of Beasts turned into a clown.

Apart from the embarrassment of being British, long being kissed in public is also the question of hygiene. The majority of English people suffer from persistent colds or chronic catarrh. As lions are exceptionally healthy and have therefore not built up any resistance to disease, their descent against infection are pitifully weak.

Therefore, when the public reads about lions savaging their trainers, apparently without reason, I hope it will be remembered that

(1) Lions do not like being trained.

(2) If the lions are English they are terrified of being kissed.

(3) If the trainers are English the lions are also terrified of catching their colds.

(4) If the trainer is an English woman the lions are not only terrified of being kissed and catching a cold but also find their cheap perfume unbearable.

A lion of my acquaintance was once kissed by a heavily scented woman trainer with a cold. She had been eating garlic. She left a husband and three little children.

Hoping your wife and family are well.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
A Lion who has been eating garlic.
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"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	24th Mar.
"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.

Scheduled sailings from Europe

Sails		
"BELLEROPHON"	Liverpool	13th Mar.
"PATROCLUS"	do	13th Mar.
"ALCINOUS"	do	13th Mar.
"ANTIOCHUS"	do	13th Mar.
"CYCLOPS"	do	13th Mar.
"LAOMEDON"	do	13th Mar.
"ANCHISES"	do	13th Mar.

Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load and discharge cargo.

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ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

Sails N.Y.		
"TELEMACHUS"	Sailed	13th Mar.
"DONA NATI"	do	13th Mar.
"MANGALORE"	do	13th Mar.
"AJAX"	do	13th Mar.
"HAINAN"	do	13th Mar.

SAILINGS for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, CRISTOBAL and JAPAN

Sails		
"BATAAN"	19th Mar.	20th Mar.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	4th Apr.	5th Apr.
"TELEMACHUS"	19th Apr.	20th Apr.

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Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route		
HK/Singapore	(DC-4)	9:00 a.m. Monday
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4)	9:00 a.m. Tuesday
HK/Manila/B.N. Borneo	(DC-3)	9:00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong	(DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4)	7:00 a.m. Thursday
HK/Bangkok/Haiphong/Calcutta	(DC-4)	12:00 noon Friday

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

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HONGKONG

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"ANADYR" sailing March 17th

"IRAQUADY" sailing April 22nd

Trade Talks Postponed

London, Mar. 9.

Trade talks between Britain

and Hungary, due to begin

here on March 15, have been

provisionally postponed to

March 20, it was learned here

today.

The delay was requested by

the Hungarians who found it

impossible to be ready for dis-

cussions by the original date.

The Hungarian talks are the

second of three sets of trade

negotiations with Iron Curtain

countries, designed to aid

Britain in her drive for in-

creased East-West trade.

Talks with Poland began here

last Thursday. Later this spring

a Czechoslovak delegation will

come to London to discuss the

renewal of the Anglo-Czech

trade agreement which expires

in June.

There has been hardly any

trade between Britain and

Hungary since 1949 when the

Hungarian police arrested Mr

Edgar Sanders, a British busi-

nessman, on espionage charges.

He was released last August.

Reuter.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

m/v "CHANGSHIA"

Arrived 9th March, 1954.

Damaged cargo ex this vessel will

be surveyed by Messrs. Godard &

Douglas at Hongkong & Kowloon

Wharf Godown at 10.00 a.m. on

Friday, 12th March and Saturday,

13th March, 1954, and consignees

representatives are requested to be

present during survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents,

Australian-oriental Line Ltd.

China Navigation Co., Ltd.

Professor McMahon Ball Says Japan Does Not Want To Be Pro-West Or Pro-Red

Darwin, Australia, Mar. 9.

Japan did not want to be either pro-West or pro-

Communist, Professor William McMahon Ball said here

tonight when he returned from a visit to Japan.

Japan wanted to follow an

independent "pro-Japanese"

policy, Professor McMahon Ball,

who was British Commonwealth

member of the Allied Council in

Japan in 1946, said.

"He said, 'Japan feels rather

squashed between the West led

by the United States and the

East led by the Soviet Union

and China."

"The Japanese were much

better off materially now than

they were a few years ago, but

they are much more worried

and unhappy," he said.

"Last time I was there the

Japanese had no morale prob-

lems as General MacArthur

made decisions for them," Pro-

fessor McMahon Ball said.

"Now they don't know what

to do," he said.—Reuter.

Peninsular & Oriental

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

R.M.S. "CARTHAGE"

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS

SAILS: Friday the 12th March, at 12.00

noon for the UNITED KINGDOM via

Straits, Colombo, Bombay, Aden and

Port Said.

BAGGAGE: Passengers are requested to send ALL

baggage to the Hongkong & Kowloon

Wharf Co.'s Godown at No. 2 GATE,

CANTON ROAD ENTRANCE, by

NOON on Thursday 11th March, 1954.

SPECIAL NOTE: With the exception of hand packages

carried by passengers themselves,

ALL BAGGAGE must pass through

the Wharf Co.'s Godown for loading

on board by ship's slings only.

BAGGAGE COOLIES WILL NOT BE

PERMITTED TO ENTER THE

WHARF.

EMBARKATION: Passengers should embark between

9.30 and 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 12th

March, 1954.

P&O B.I.E&A COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leaves London	Due Hongkong
"CARTHAGE"	10th March	10th April
"CORFU"	4th March	5th April
"CHUSAN"	10th March	17th April

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards - Leaves Hongkong Due London,

"CARTHAGE" 12th March 12th April

"CORFU" 6th April 10th May

"CHUSAN" 2nd May 31st May

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards "SOMALI" 21st March U.K. Via Straits

Homewards "SINGAPORE" 7th April U.K. From Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Havre, London, Rotterdam & Hamburg

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"WARLA" In Port sails 10th Mar. for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Calcutta & Ceylon

"ANSHUN" due 17th Mar. from Calcutta for Japan

"SIRDHANA" due 21st Mar. for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OZARDA" due 14th Mar. for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basra direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay

"ORDIA" due 10th Mar. for Japan

"ORMARA" due 17th Mar. for Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basra direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay

"ORNA" due 2nd Apr. for Japan

"EASTERN" due 23rd Mar. from Japan for London, Brisbane, Melbourne & Adelaide

"NELLORE" due 27th Mar. from Australia for Japan

"NELLORE" due 10th Apr. from Japan for Australia, Wellington, Sydney & Melbourne

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to:-

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Gravel Pit Will Be Reserved For Geologists

London, Mar. 10.

A disused gravel pit where

parts of human skull at least

100,000 years old, were found,

is to become a geological re-

served, it was announced here

today.

The Nature Conservancy,

which holds land of scientific

interest for the Government,

said it had also set five nature

reserves in different parts of

the country.

The geological reserve is in

Kent, Southern England. The

skull found here is the only

genuine braincase of an Acheu-

lian hand-axe maker, probably

that of a woman in her twenties

known to science.

Elephant, rhinoceros, deer

and bison remains have also

been unearthed there.

Havegate Island, Suffolk,

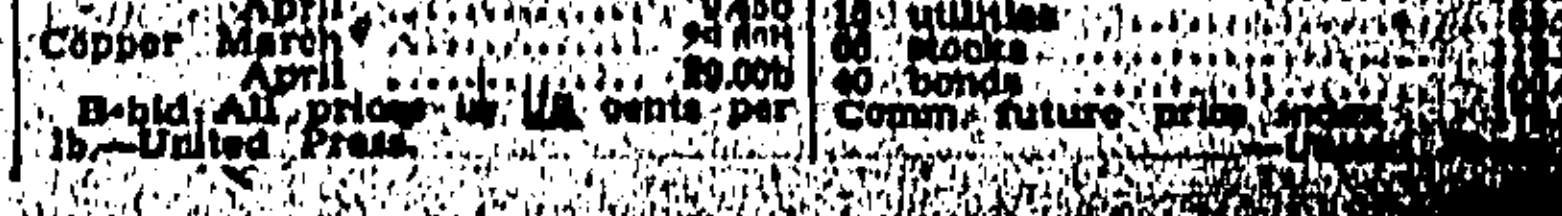
one of the Nature reserves be-

came famous when avocets

began breeding there six years

ago. The bird had not been

known to breed in this country



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CHINA MAIL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1954.

SHEAFFER'S
ADMIRAL
NEW
"SHORKEL"
PEN

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Finding A Friend

UNTIL rather less than two years ago, Terence worked, contentedly enough, in an ironmonger's shop in his home-town in Ireland. Then, quite unaccountably and suddenly, at the age of 28, he was seized with an urge to change his job.

He handed in his notice at the shop, and when it had expired, packed his bags and took the boat to England in search of adventure.

Terence was not a reckless adventurer, and he held his ambition on a tight rein. He made his way to London, and almost at once found a job as an assistant in an ironmonger's shop.

THE GREAT IDEA

FOR his first 12 months here, Terence was happy enough. The wonders of London delighted him and seemed endless, and being happy, he did well at his work, receiving promotion in status.

After the first 12 months, the simple pleasures of sightseeing began to pall. Terence realised how short his life was of friends.

Night after night, he sat alone in his furnished room in Victoria, cursing his solitary state, longing for someone to talk to. At last he had an idea.

He would make it a nightly habit to visit one public house, stay there as long as he could, infiltrate himself into the company of the regulars, and from among them find his friends.

THE SNAG

THE idea had its merits and the results were quite encouraging. After a week or two, he knew several men, and he, and soon even knew the names of some and a little about them.

There was only one snag. The nightly sessions proved disastrously expensive. Week by week, Terence found he needed more money than he possessed, if he was to carry his great idea to its proper end. He began to steal, only a shilling or two at a time, from the till in the shop where he worked.

Inevitably, since he stole so often, Terence was caught. He was brought to Bow Street, and there charged with stealing one sum of 2s. and another of 4s. He pleaded guilty and admitted that over a period of three months he had probably taken about £5.

I WILL REPAY

"HE always given good service in the shop," the officer in charge of the case said to Sir Laurence Dunne, the Chief Magistrate. He outlined Terence's history. "He says the reason for this is that he has been drinking heavily and it impaired his judgment."

"Have you had trouble with drink before?" Sir Laurence asked Terence. Terence hung his tattered black head, and muttered into his overcoat collar. "No, sir, I never had no trouble with the drink. It's just I been feeling all lonely and depressed, and didn't seem to have no friends. I promise I'll repay the money, if you'll give me the chance."

"You've made it very difficult for anyone to give you a chance," Sir Laurence said. "If this sort of thing had happened even a few years ago, there'd have been no two thoughts about it, you'd have gone to prison. However..."

YOU ARE LUCKY

HE put Terence on probation, ordering him that when he had a new job, he was to pay back what he had stolen, at the rate of £1 a week.

"Have a talk with the probation officer," said the Chief Magistrate. "You can think yourself extremely lucky."

Terence clearly did. He nodded his head with great violence, then hurried out of the court, on the probation officer's heels, as a man might try to catch up with a friend long-sought and new found.

What's Her Line? Solution
MOSIER MENDER
London Express Service.

Printed and published by WILLIAM ALICK GRIMHAM for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.

HK Rent Restrictions Criticised

Criticism of the continued restrictive legislation on rentals for residential properties was expressed by Mr W. A. Stewart, Chairman of Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd., when he presided at the annual general meeting of the Company this morning.

Mr Stewart said that the standard rent of 1941 was unfair in its application to European residential properties and that the permitted increases on those standard rents was "entirely unrealistic against current values."

He added that, fortunately, the Company had many tenants who, recognising the simple logic of the views he had expressed, had voluntarily agreed to increase their rents.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Stewart said: "The profit on normal working for the year 1953 is \$518,517. To this is added profit on sale of property of \$574,270 and the balance brought forward from 1952 of \$135,003, making available for appropriation a total of \$1,227,790. The recommendations of the Directors in dealing with this balance are set out in the Report, and I trust they meet with your approval."

The Profit & Loss Account disclosed that revenue was slightly less than the previous year. This was due to the sale of our Minden properties and Cornwall Lodge in Kowloon. This was compensated to a certain extent by voluntary increases of rents by some of our tenants. Expenses are shown in as much detail as possible and most fluctuations are self-explanatory.

You will notice that \$56,844 was spent on repairs and maintenance against \$30,511 in the previous year. This is largely due to major overhauls of some of our property which were considered essential and long overdue. Special repairs, amounting to \$44,349, represent our share of the cost of work carried out by Government in restoring the hillside on the approach road to our Chartered Bank site, necessitated by two serious landslides. Bank interest is considerably reduced following a refund of our overdraft.

"VERY FAVOURABLE"
The Balance Sheet discloses that our Current Assets exceed Current Liabilities by \$582,435, a very favourable position as compared with previous years. Loans on mortgage are reduced to \$130,000, the balance of payment on the sale of Minden properties having been settled. The provision for Depreciation and Amortisation of Crown Leases of \$500,000 and General Reserve of \$2,000,000 represents a satisfactory position.

The most important factor in our affairs during the year was the sale of Cornwall Lodge & Grounds, Kowloon, and it will be noted from the Profit & Loss Account that the net profit on this transaction amounted to \$574,270. This property was yielding an income of only \$6,000 a year and the proceeds from the sale can be used to very much better advantage.

As the Company's finances have improved very considerably over the last few years, the time has arrived when consideration can be given to the development of our May Road sites. Accordingly, the Directors have approved the building of a large block of apartments on the site of the old Frison Cottage, May Road, which has remained in a war-damaged condition for so long. The new Frison Apartments will comprise 35 flats of varying sizes and will be accessible by car. Plans have already been submitted to Government and work will be commenced as soon as approval is given. This scheme will be financed partly by our liquid resources and partly by mortgages promised by our Bankers. It may be of interest to you to know that most of the flats have already been booked by firms for the accommodation of their staffs.

UNFAIR STANDARD
During 1953 there was published the very able and comprehensive report of the Committee appointed to examine the Landlord & Tenants Ordinance. The increases recommended by this Committee were reduced by half after the second reading of the Bill in Council, following an outcry of protest by the Public in the local press. It is important that you should know that the

benefit to this Company from the increases adopted amounts only to some \$1,600 per month. I cannot let this occasion pass without expressing my opinions: firstly, that the standard rent of 1941 is unfair in its application to European residential properties, as the compulsory evacuation of families in 1940 necessitated substantial reductions in rents at that time, and, secondly, that the two increases permitted since the war, totalling 55%, on the standard rent of 1941, are entirely unrealistic against current values. Fortunately, we have many tenants who, recognising the simple logic of the views I have expressed, have voluntarily agreed to increase their rents, thereby making it possible for us to undertake much-needed repairs to some of our May Road buildings. This policy, whereby additional revenue commensurate with today's costs and values can be partly devoted to improvements in properties to tenants' advantage, is one which we shall continue as far as possible, but so long as restrictive legislation persists, now nearly nine years after the war—our desires in this direction will continue to be handicapped.

Those present at the meeting were Mr W. A. Stewart, (Chairman), the Hon. C. Blaker, MC, ED, Dr. the Hon. S. N. Chau, CBE, Mr. H. Kadourie, Rev. Fr. J. V. Hunt, (representing the Auditors), Mr. P. A. L. Vine, (representing Messrs Deacons, the Company's solicitors), Mr. D. E. Clark, Major S. M. Churn, Mr. O. P. Hechler, Mr. F. A. O'Leary and Mr. G. M. Davreux (Secretary).

The Chairman's Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted on the Chairman's proposition, seconded by Major Churn.

Mr Blaker, Mr Kadourie, Dr. Chau and Fr. Hunt were re-elected to the Board of Directors on the proposition of Mr Hechler, seconded by Mr Clark. Mr Clark proposed the re-appointment of Messrs Peat Marwick, Mitchell and Company, as Auditors, and this was seconded by Major Churn.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest times of posting for registered mail, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
By Air
Japan, 6 p.m.
Formosa, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.
By Surface
Philippines, 3 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11
By Air
India, Ceylon, 9 a.m.
Thailand, Burma, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 10 a.m.
By Surface
Formosa, 1 p.m.
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 1 p.m.
Formosa, Okinawa, Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.
Philippines, N. Borneo, 6 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 6:30 a.m.
Macao, 2 a.m.
Indo-China, Noon.
Japan, 3 p.m.
Malaya, Ceylon, India, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"This looks like lip rouge on Junior's shoulder! I'm afraid the days of cleaning chocolate ice cream spots are gone forever!"

General Managership Agreement Terminated

At an extraordinary general meeting of Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd., held this morning a resolution was adopted terminating the agreement of Messrs J. D. Humphreys & Son under which they acted as General Managers for Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.

Proposing the resolution, Mr H. Kadourie said: "The ordinary resolution, which is the main subject of this meeting, has been explained by a statement from the board, a printed copy of which has been mailed to all shareholders."

The Directors have stated that they have a high regard for the manner in which the Company's affairs in the past and I am sure shareholders will concur with that opinion. The Directors are also appreciative of the spirit in which the General Managers have conducted negotiations with them on the important matter now submitted for your decision.

The system of General Managership adopted by this Company many years ago has many advantages, but, principally, that the terms originally agreed meant economical management. However, with passing of time and the expansion of our business, this form of management becomes increasingly expensive and your Directors have decided that we have reached a stage where the Company can be managed efficiently, and eventually much more economically, by adopting new arrangements.

There is very little I can add to the explanations given in the statement of the board, except perhaps to remark that, although savings in the past have been substantial, the benefit will be derived by our Company when we have implemented the policy of development now under contemplation; this is particularly so if such development is financed by new capital. I must also emphasise that the most important, immediate advantage to be derived from the termination of the General Managers' Agreement is in being relieved from the obligation of paying commission on profits accruing from the sale of properties which are standing in our books at a fraction of their current value.

WARRANT ACCEPTANCE
Shareholders may of course rest assured that the Directors have considered this matter from all aspects. Having done so, they are convinced that the advantages to be gained by the Company warrant the acceptance of the offer made by the General Managers.

From the printed statement of the Board, it will be noted that the General Managers' offer to terminate their Agreement is conditional on acceptance by Peak Tramways Ltd. of an offer that has been made to them on the same principle. After due consideration, Messrs John D. Humphreys & Son Ltd. have decided to withdraw this condition. I now formally propose as an ordinary resolution:—That the Agreement dated the 22nd day of December, 1949, between the Company and Messrs John D. Humphreys & Son be terminated.

ed on the 31st day of March 1954 and that Messrs John D. Humphreys & Son Limited, successors in business of the said John D. Humphreys & Son be compensated for loss of office and other rights under the said agreement by the issuance of such number of 25,000 fully paid shares each of a nominal value of \$10.00 which shares shall rank for dividend on the 1st day of January 1954 and which shall in all other respects rank pari passu with the already issued shares and upon the basis that the successors in business receive payment of the General Managers' allowance for the period from 1st January 1954 to 31st March 1954 at \$1,250.00 per month but do not receive commission on profits during this said period."

This was seconded by Major S. M. Churn and approved. Mr Stewart said: Having adopted the ordinary resolution, it is necessary to provide for consequential amendment to the Articles of Association of the Company and to formally propose the following as a special resolution:—"That the Articles of Association submitted to the Meeting and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the Chairman thereof be approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of all existing articles thereof."

This was seconded by Mr D. E. Clark and approved.

Radio Hongkong

H.K. Time Signal and Programme Summary:
6:00. Lucky Dip.
6:05. Variety Requests presented by the Radio.
6:10. Time Signal and World News (London Relay).
6:15. New Talk (London Relay).
6:20. Special Announcements: 7:10. Orel.
6:25. The Week-The Daily.
6:30. Radio Orch. 7:45. Rugby Football.
6:40. Battalion Fiji Regt v Colony.
6:45. Commentary by Vernon, Robert.
6:50. From the Club (Recorded).
6:55. "Two Hearts in Three-Quarter Time." An abridged version of the Robert Blair's "Overture" sung by the Viennese Light Opera Company, cond. by the composer, Dr. Time Signal 8:00. String Quartet (Studio). Arrigo Zoa (1st violin), Elvira (violin), Fritz Lin (cello), 9:15. Robert Goldsand (Piano) plays Chopin's Variations on Mozart's La Cenerentola.
9:20. Wednesday Theatre. Michael Redgrave and the Duke of York.
9:25. By William Shakespeare Adapted for radio by Peter Watts from the play "The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare. Hosted by John G. St. John.
9:30. Griffiths: Henry Hollingsworth, Duke of Norfolk.
9:35. Thomas Morley, Duke of Norfolk.
9:40. William Fox, The Duke of Surrey.
9:45. Geoffrey Baylton, Duke of Devon.
9:50. Michael Macnamara, Duke of Devon.
9:55. Lord Northampton, Duke of Devon.
10:00. The Queen: Heather Stannard.
10:05. The Duke of Northumberland, Alexander.
10:10. The Duke of Devon, Philip.
10:15. Willoughby, Michael; Bates, With.
10:20. George, George; Baylton, 10:25. (approx.) One Night Stand, 10:30. Heather Stannard, 10:35. Radio New, 10:40. Recorded (Radio). 11:10. Goodnight, Music.
11:15. The Queen, 11:30. Close.
11:40. Devn.

Four Face Poisons & Drugs Charges

Three men and a woman appeared before Mr Hin-shing Lo at Central this morning on charges of possession of poisons, permitting premises to be used for the manufacture of heroin, possession of dangerous drugs, possession of dangerous goods and resisting arrest.

Defendants, Tse Sock-yuen alias Chan Yau, 42, Chan Chi-ming, 42, Cheung Kan-ying, 35, female, and Chan Chun-kwok, 30, were remanded for seven days in gaol custody or bail of \$10,000—half cash, half surety allowed—pending transfer to District Court.

Det. Sub-Ins. C. C. Chau is in charge of the case. Mr Patrick Yu appeared for the first defendant, Tse Sock-yuen. All four defendants are accused of having had in their possession on February 25 at 79 King's Road, fourth floor, four bottles of Baker's Anaesthetic Chloroform, without a permit under Part I Poisons Ordinance.

The first of the four additional charges against all the accused was permitting the above mentioned premises to be used for the manufacture of heroin on the same date.

A charge of possession of dangerous drugs, namely one gramme of crude morphine hydrochloride and 0.2 gramme of crude diacetylmorphine base without a permit was brought against all the defendants. They are also charged with having had possession of dangerous goods, namely two bottles containing 1200 cc of acetic anhydride, two bottles containing 650 cc of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 10 bottles containing a total of 10 pounds of ether.

The 35-year-old Leung Chan, unemployed, before she was convicted by Mr Poon Yan-hoi this morning for loitering, and fined \$75.

Leung was also ordered to be bound over in the sum of \$200 for one year.

According to the Prosecution, two Police Constables, Cpl 1287 and PC 3709 were on patrol at Des Voeux Road Central near Gilman Street at 11 p.m. on March 1 when they saw the defendant talking to a Chinese man, keeping her under observation.

The Police saw her engage three different men in conversation within half an hour. They then arrested her and took her to Eastern Police Station.

Leung's story was that she met a friend and had talked to him for about half an hour before the policeman came up, and that after searching her, her friend, who she alleged that the Inspector at the station told her that she would have to be arrested that night, but that she would be released if there were other arrests later.

Shareholder Opposes Resolution

Objections were raised this morning by Mr N. V. A. Croucher at an extraordinary meeting of the Peak Tramways Company, Limited, to a resolution terminating the present General Managership.

The meeting was convened to terminate the agreement between Messrs John D. Humphreys and Son, Limited and the company, and to increase the capital to \$1,500,000 by the creation of 75,000 new shares at \$10 per share.

Mr Croucher said that he saw no reason to dispose of the General Managers who have served the company well in the past. He said he also considered that shareholders would be paying too high a price for running their own company.

Mr Croucher then asked the chairman for figures on the present financial state of the company, including the value of the land owned by the tramways.

Mr P. A. L. Vine, in answer to the questions put by Mr Croucher, said that the company had already sent a letter to him the previous week explaining as far as possible what assets the company had. "As for the price of land," said Mr Vine, "it was almost impossible to give a true estimate."

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried, with Mr Croucher abstaining.

A third resolution for the amendment to the articles of association of the company, was carried unanimously. Addressing the meeting, Mr Kadourie said: "The purpose of this meeting has been explained by a statement from the Board, a printed copy of which has been sent to all shareholders. The Directors have the highest regard for the manner in which the General Managers have conducted our affairs in the past. The efficient running of the Tramway system

264 Summonses Dismissed

At Central this morning Mr Hin-shing Lo dismissed 264 summonses against stall owners who were accused of having caused obstructions.

The Police offered no evidence when Mr F. C. Woo, appearing for the hawkers, pleaded not guilty to all the summonses.

Court Claim For Deposit

The cross-examination of the Manager of the defendant Bank by leading Counsel for the plaintiffs in their 2½-million dollar deposit claim continued before Mr Justice Reynolds in the Supreme Court this morning.

Plaintiffs are the China Mutual Trading Co., Ltd. of 13-27 Ice House Street, and defendants are the Banque Belge Pour l'Etranger (Extreme-Orient) Societe Anonyme, Edinburgh House.

Plaintiffs are claiming for the return from the Bank of HK\$2,580,171.96, being the balance of margins paid in connection with the importation of certain goods into Hongkong. Plaintiffs claim repayment of this sum with interest thereon or alternatively the equivalent in Hongkong dollars of US\$449,504.43, or alternatively damages.

The Defence is that the margins had, at the request of the plaintiffs, been converted into U.S. dollars and that they were held by the defendants in U.S. dollars in the United States. As a result of the freezing regulations passed in December, 1950, the monies had become blocked and could not be returned.

Mr John McNeill, QC, Mr Percy Chen and Mr Brook A. Borneacchi, all instructed by Mr Y. H. Chan, of Messrs Lau, Chan and Ko, are appearing for the plaintiffs.

The defendants are represented by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almeida, QC, and Mr D. A. L. Wright, both instructed by Mr H. J. Armstrong, of Messrs Deacons.

CROSS-EXAMINATION
Mr M. Ubachs, Manager of the defendant Bank, whose cross-examination by Mr McNeill commenced at the conclusion of his evidence-in-chief on Monday afternoon was further cross-examined by Counsel this morning.

In reply to a question where would a payment by Bank if it was recorded in the Bank if it was not recorded in the transit account, witness said that it might be quite different transaction. Sometimes the Bank received amounts for various other customers and when that happened such amounts would appear in their books in bulk amount. Payments by plaintiffs were recorded in their books, not necessarily in the transit account.

Mr Ubachs explained that a Hongkong dollar current account was not a transit account. Mr McNeill: Is a Hongkong dollar margin account a transit account?

Mr Ubachs: It is a transit account. Is that because you have recorded certain transactions pending implementation, is that it?

Implementation of some obligation on the part of the Bank?—On the part of the customer or the Bank as the case may be.

Either one or the other?—Yes, or both.

In cases of a H.K. dollar current account, there are obligations on the part of the Bank, for example, to honour a cheque which required implementation?—Yes.

Hearing is continuing.

"JINX TRIP" ENDS

London, Mar. 10. The 23,000-ton liner Orion, docked at Tilbury yesterday after a three-month "jinx trip" to Australia and back, during which four people died and two disappeared. Three of the dead were passengers. An inquiry will be held on board today into the disappearance of the Boam's mate, Henry Hellicker, 27, when the ship was near Aden on her homeward journey—a fortnight ago.

The other missing person was Mrs Ann Withers, 47, an Australian, who disappeared while the ship was near Melbourne on the outward journey. She was presumed dead at an inquiry—China Mail Special.